6. (Thrice Amended) The process for producing a hydrogenated ester according to claim 2, wherein the reaction temperature at the time of the hydrogenation reaction is in the range of 0°C to 200°C.

Sub 6,12 Cont

7. (Thrice Amended) The process for producing a hydrogenated ester according to claim 2, wherein that unsaturated group-containing ester represented by the general formula (1) is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of: allyl acetate, crotyl acetate, methallyl acetate, allyl propionate, crotyl propionate, methallyl propionate, vinyl acetate, vinyl propionate, 1,3-butadienyl acetate, and 1,3-butadienyl propionate.

C2

8. (Thrice Amended) The process for producing a hydrogenated ester according to claim 2, wherein the hydrogenating catalyst comprises at least one element selected from the group consisting of Group VIII elements, Group IX elements or Group X elements in the periodic table.

9. (Thrice Amended) The process for producing a hydrogenated ester according to claim 30, wherein the hydrogenation reaction is conducted by a liquid-phase reaction by use of a fixed bed-type reactor.

Sub 6,12 Cont

C3

10. (Twice Amended) A process for producing a hydrogenated ester by hydrogenating an allyl-type ester represented by a general formula (1) (n=1) by using a hydrogenating catalyst so as to produce the corresponding hydrogenated ester corresponding to the allyl-type ester, wherein the concentration of a carboxylic acid in a raw material containing the allyl-type ester represented by the general formula (1) is 1 wt. % or less.

11. (Twice Amended) The process for producing a hydrogenated ester according to claim 10, wherein the hydrogenating catalyst comprises at least one species selected from the

group consisting of compounds of Group VIII elements, Group IX elements or Group X elements in the periodic table.

12. (Twice Amended) The process for producing a hydrogenated ester according to claim 11, wherein the hydrogenating catalyst comprises at least one species selected from the group consisting of compounds of palladium, rhodium or ruthenium.

13. (Thrice Amended) The process for producing a hydrogenated ester according to claim 10, wherein the allyl-type ester represented by the general formula (1) is at least one species of allyl-type ester selected from the group consisting of allyl acetate, crotyl acetate, methallyl acetate, allyl propionate, crotyl propionate, and methallyl propionate.

24. (Amended) The process for producing a hydrogenated ester according to claim 31, wherein the hydrogenation is carried out at a reaction temperature in the range of 0° to 200°C.

25. (Amended) The process for producing a hydrogenated ester according to claims 33, wherein the hydrogenation is carried out at a reaction temperature in the range of 0° to 200° C.

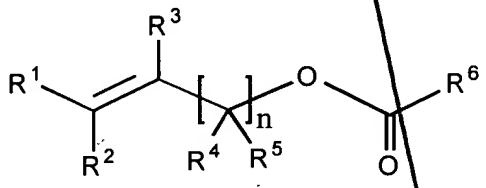
26. (Amended) The process for producing a hydrogenated ester according to claim 31, wherein the unsaturated group-containing ester as a raw material is diluted with an inert solvent and the resultant diluted liquid is used as the raw material-containing a liquid to be hydrogenated.

27. (Amended) The process for producing a hydrogenated ester according to claim 33, wherein the unsaturated group-containing ester as a raw material is diluted with an inert solvent and the resultant diluted liquid is used as the raw material-containing liquid to be hydrogenated.

28. (Amended) The process for producing a hydrogenated ester according to claim 25, wherein the inert solvent is a hydrogenated ester corresponding to the unsaturated group-containing ester as a raw material.

29. (Amended) The process for producing a hydrogenated ester according to claim 24, wherein the inert solvent is a hydrogenated ester corresponding to the unsaturated group-containing ester as a raw material.

30. (Amended) A process for producing a hydrogenated ester by hydrogenating an unsaturated group-containing ester represented by the following general formula (1) in the presence of a hydrogenating catalyst so as to produce the corresponding hydrogenated ester corresponding to the unsaturated group-containing ester



(1)

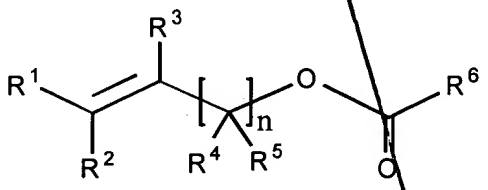
wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 denote an arbitrary alkyl group containing 1-10 carbon atoms, an arbitrary alkenyl group containing 2 - 10 carbon atoms, or a hydrogen atom and may be the same as or different from each other; the alkyl group and alkenyl group may be either straight-chain or branched; R^6 denotes an arbitrary alkyl group which contains 1 - 10 carbon atoms and may be either straight-chain or branched; and n is 0 or 1, comprising

providing an unsaturated group-containing ester represented by the general formula (1), wherein the concentration of the unsaturated group-containing ester represented by general formula (1) at the initial time of the hydrogenation reaction thereof is in the range of 1 wt % -50

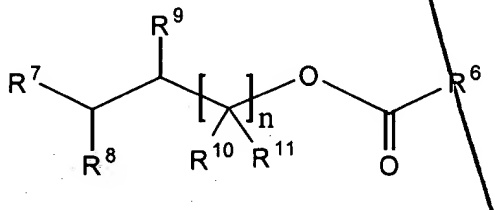
wt % based on the entirety of the raw material liquid containing the unsaturated group-containing ester; and

reacting the unsaturated group containing ester with hydrogen while diluting said unsaturated group-containing ester with an inert solvent to effectuate a hydrogenation reaction, wherein the inert solvent is the corresponding hydrogenated ester.

31. (Amended) A process for producing a hydrogenated ester, wherein an unsaturated group-containing ester represented by the general formula (1) is hydrogenated by using a hydrogenating catalyst which contains at least one metal selected from the group consisting of Group VIII elements, Group IX elements, and Group X elements in the periodic table, and is to be used for hydrogenating an unsaturated group-containing ester represented by the following formula (1) to thereby produce a hydrogenated ester represented by the following formula (2), wherein the catalyst has an acidity of 1.0×10^{-1} mol/g or less:



(1)



(2)

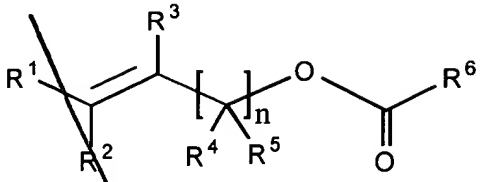
wherein n represents 0 or 1; R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 denote an arbitrary alkyl group containing 1-10 carbon atoms, an arbitrary alkenyl group containing 2 - 10 carbon atoms, or a hydrogen atom and may be the same as or different from each other; the alkyl group and alkenyl group may be either straight-chain or branched; R^6 represents a C_1-C_{10} alkyl group; and each of R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, and R^{11} represents a C_1-C_{10} alkyl group, a C_2-C_{10} alkenyl group, or a hydrogen atom independently to each other.

Sub E12 & Cont

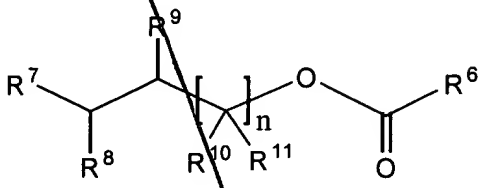
32. (Amended) The process for producing a hydrogenated ester according to claim 31, wherein the hydrogenating catalyst selected from at least one metal selected from the group consisting of Group VIII elements, Group IX elements, and Group X elements in the periodic table is at least one of the species selected from the group consisting of palladium, ruthenium and rhodium.

C5 C1 cont'd

33. (Amended) A process for producing a hydrogenated ester, wherein at least one of the species of an unsaturated group-containing ester selected from the group consisting of allyl acetate, crotyl acetate, methallyl acetate, allyl propionate, crotyl propionate, methallyl propionate, vinyl acetate, 1,3-butadienyl acetate, 1-methyl-1-propenyl acetate, vinyl propionate, 1,3-butadienyl propionate, and 1-methyl-1-propenyl propionate is hydrogenated by using a hydrogenating catalyst which contains at least one metal selected from the group consisting of Group VIII elements, Group IX elements, and Group X elements in the periodic table, and is to be used for hydrogenating an unsaturated group-containing ester represented by the following formula (1) to thereby produce a hydrogenated ester represented by the following formula (2), wherein the catalyst has an acidity of 1.0×10^{-1} mol/g or less:



(1)



(2)

wherein n represents 0 or 1; R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 denote an arbitrary alkyl group containing 1-10 carbon atoms, an arbitrary alkenyl group containing 2 - 10 carbon atoms, or a hydrogen atom and may be the same as or different from each other; the alkyl group and alkenyl group may be either straight-chain or branched; R^6 represents a C_1-C_{10} alkyl group; and each of R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, and R^{11} represents a C_1-C_{10} alkyl group, a C_2-C_{10} alkenyl group, or a hydrogen atom independently to each other.

34. (Amended) The process for producing a hydrogenated ester according to claim 33, wherein the hydrogenating catalyst selected from at least one metal selected from the group consisting of Group VIII elements, Group IX elements, and Group X elements in the periodic table is at least one of the species selected from the group consisting of palladium, ruthenium and rhodium.